

WORKFORCE OBSERVATIONS FOR SOUTH CENTRAL WISCONSIN COUNTIES

March 2004



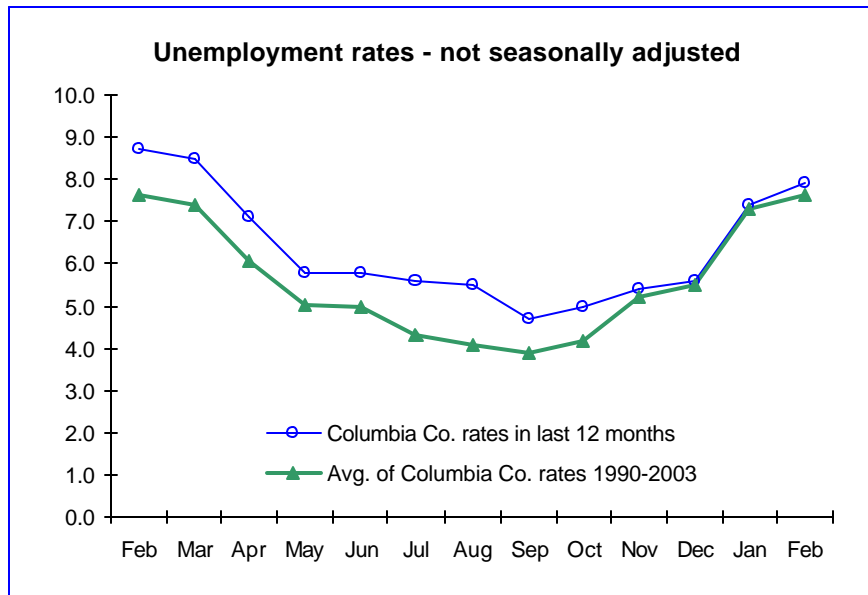
State of Wisconsin
Department of Workforce Development
Office of Economic Advisors

February rates slightly less encouraging than January rates; still better than last February

Between January and February, **Columbia County** saw its unemployment rate rise slightly faster than it usually does. As a result, the rate was a bit further above the typical February rate than it had been above the typical January rate. (See graph below.) The retail & wholesale trade sector shed jobs as the effects of December holiday shopping and January annual inventory faded. Construction and leisure & hospitality seem to be following last year's seasonal patterns fairly closely.

Dane County unemployment rates were roughly 0.6 percent above their typical monthly levels from November through January and about 0.8 percent above the typical level in February. The February rate was the furthest above typical it has been since last August and matched last February's rate. Nonetheless, Dane County's was the lowest unemployment rate in Wisconsin. Retail trade saw softer job growth in November and December of 2003 than in 2002, so it is unsurprising that January and February saw milder job losses in 2003 than in

2002. The transportation, warehousing & utilities sector was about 400 jobs (or 5.5%) below its February 2003 level, a the sector's least encouraging result over the last year.



Dodge County's unemployment rate has been unusually erratic over the last year and has climbed further above its typical levels since November, although it remains closer to typical than last winter and spring. Any growth in manufacturing jobs is welcome, but the industry remains well below year-ago job levels. Comparing last February to this one, no sector shows greater numerical or

proportional job growth than information, professional, business & other services.

The unemployment rate in **Jefferson County** is as far above typical levels as it has been at any time since last February. Manufacturing employment estimates are lower than they have been in any month since January 2002, while construction and retail & wholesale trade continue to follow seasonal trends very close to last year's patterns.

Labor force estimates - not seasonally adjusted

	Wisconsin			South Central			Columbia			Dane		
	Feb 2004	1-month change	1-year change	Feb 2004	1-month change	1-year change	Feb 2004	1-month change	1-year change	Feb 2004	1-month change	1-year change
Civilian Labor Force**	3,100,400	18,200	57,000	454,200	780	11,900	28,700	-100	830	290,800	1,260	8,800
Employed	2,900,800	2,600	70,000	433,400	-1,020	12,400	26,400	-230	980	281,300	460	8,700
Unemployed	199,700	15,700	-13,020	20,800	1,800	-490	2,300	140	-160	9,500	800	70
Unemployment rate (%)	6.4	0.4	-0.6	4.6	0.4	-0.2	7.9	0.5	-0.8	3.3	0.3	0.0

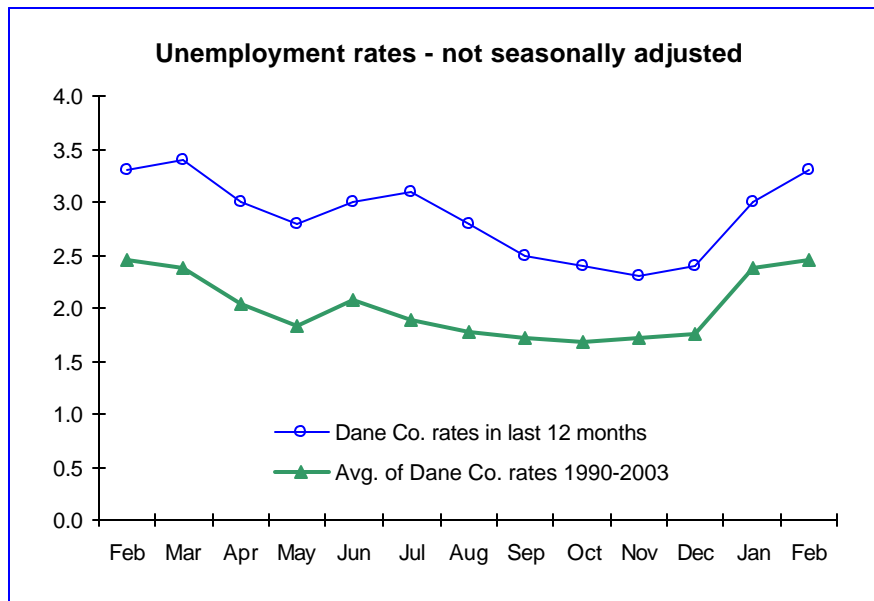
	Dodge			Jefferson			Marquette			Sauk		
	Feb 2004	1-month change	1-year change	Feb 2004	1-month change	1-year change	Feb 2004	1-month change	1-year change	Feb 2004	1-month change	1-year change
Civilian Labor Force**	48,000	140	940	42,600	-480	200	7,200	0	170	36,900	-50	1,000
Employed	44,700	-140	1,080	39,900	-850	230	6,300	-60	240	34,700	-210	1,160
Unemployed	3,400	280	-140	2,700	360	-30	880	60	-60	2,200	160	-160
Unemployment rate (%)	7.0	0.6	-0.4	6.4	1.0	-0.1	12.2	0.8	-1.2	5.8	0.4	-0.7

** Includes labor force participants residing in area. Estimates are **NOT** seasonally adjusted. Current month estimates are preliminary and subject to revision. Numbers 2,000 and greater are rounded to nearest 100. Numbers under 2,000 are rounded to nearest 10. Sub-units may not add to totals due to rounding. Calculations are based on unrounded numbers. Results are rounded. For more information call (608) 242-4885 or email dan.barroilhet@dwd.state.wi.us.

In **Marquette County**, the unemployment rate was roughly 1.7 percent above the typical February level, which is more consistent with August through November results than December (2.1% over) January (1.1% over). Marquette's 12.2 percent was the highest rate reported by any Wisconsin county. Construction employment was higher in the summer of 2003 than the summer of 2002, but construction employment in the winter of 2003-04 is closer and closer to levels seen the winter before. February 2002 saw 30 more retail & wholesale trade jobs than February of 2001, and February 2003 saw 10 fewer retail & wholesale trade jobs than February of 2002.

Although not quite as far below typical as the January rate, **Sauk County's** unemployment rate remained well below typical in February. (The definition of typical is a bit skewed by the county's unique circumstances in the early 1990s

and structural changes since then.) Over the last twelve months, transportation, warehousing & utilities employment estimates have often been roughly 50 to 90 jobs below their year-ago levels. This trend has not yet shown signs of improving significantly.



We need assistance from multiple worksite employers. We ask employers with operations in multiple locations (work sites) in Wisconsin to complete a Multiple Worksite Report. Individual employers' responses remain confidential; only aggregate information is published. If aggregate information might allow inferences about a specific employer, that aggregate information is not published. We thank nearly 3,300 reporting employers with over 25,000 work sites.

Without their cooperation, this newsletter and other products and services would not be possible. For more information, please contact **Deb Holt** at **(608) 266-5321**.

Employment by industry estimates - not seasonally adjusted

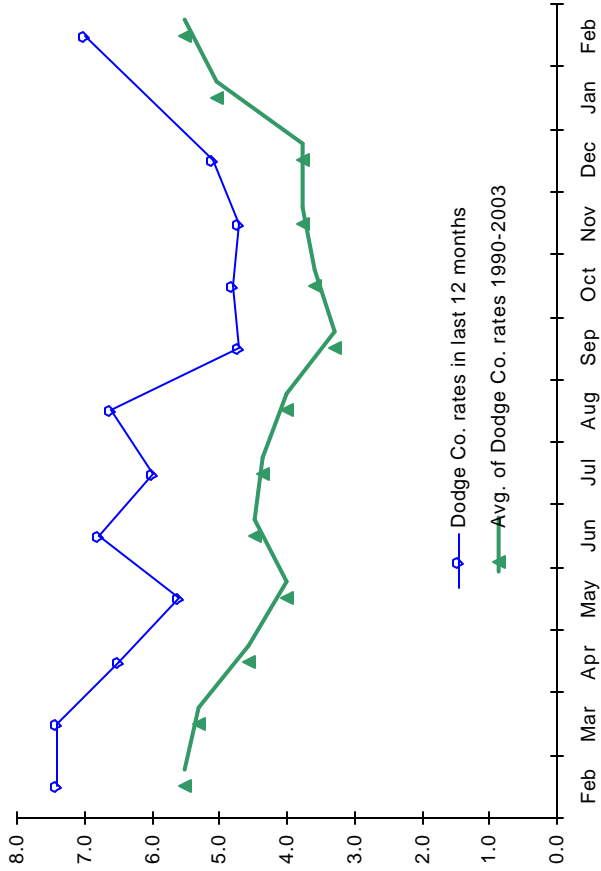
	Wisconsin			South Central			Columbia			Dane		
	Feb 2004	1-month change	1-year change	Feb 2004	1-month change	1-year change	Feb 2004	1-month change	1-year change	Feb 2004	1-month change	1-year change
Total jobs, all industries*	2,750,000	15,900	31,600	421,500	670	4,100	20,000	-100	240	295,600	1,100	4,100
Const., min'g & nat. resources	112,400	-3,200	4,300	19,000	-350	520	990	-20	60	13,200	-200	300
Manufacturing	499,600	1,600	-5,300	57,900	120	-1,370	4,600	-20	-60	26,800	300	100
Trade (wholesale & retail)	426,700	-4,800	7,600	62,300	-820	1,710	3,400	-30	140	42,100	-600	1,200
Transport, Wrhsing, Utilities	104,500	-1,100	1,700	10,400	-140	-470	690	-20	10	6,900	0	1,300
Financial activities	161,500	1,700	6,600	30,400	-20	1,340	670	0	80	26,200	0	1,100
Education & health services	375,400	3,900	13,800	44,400	-10	970	2,300	-10	-30	29,500	-100	700
Leisure & hospitality	231,600	-3,300	7,600	37,400	-20	1,200	2,100	-50	60	23,600	100	600
Info, prof, bus. & other srvcs	418,600	1,500	500	64,800	480	170	1,570	-10	60	51,700	500	-100
Government	419,700	19,600	-5,200	95,000	1,440	30	3,800	60	-100	75,600	1,200	600
	Dodge			Jefferson			Marquette			Sauk		
	Feb 2004	1-month change	1-year change	Feb 2004	1-month change	1-year change	Feb 2004	1-month change	1-year change	Feb 2004	1-month change	1-year change
Total jobs, all industries*	33,000	-20	-20	34,400	-190	-580	3,700	-30	60	34,800	-90	320
Const., min'g & nat. resources	1,790	-70	-30	1,100	-60	50	140	-10	10	1,760	0	120
Manufacturing	10,000	30	-380	9,100	-130	-910	1,200	-10	-10	6,200	-50	-110
Trade (wholesale & retail)	3,900	-70	50	5,800	-100	50	430	-20	-10	6,600	-20	280
Transport, Wrhsing, Utilities	970	10	10	1,190	-20	-50	50	10	10	620	-30	-50
Financial activities	830	-10	20	950	-10	30	150	0	10	1,580	0	100
Education & health services	4,300	10	130	4,700	80	130	290	0	0	3,300	10	40
Leisure & hospitality	2,200	-10	100	3,000	-30	180	360	10	20	6,200	-40	240
Info, prof, bus. & other srvcs	3,500	30	210	4,600	-10	160	220	0	10	3,100	-20	-160
Government	5,500	50	-120	4,100	70	-230	850	0	40	5,200	50	-140

*Includes jobs with employers in area. Estimates are NOT seasonally adjusted. Current month estimates are preliminary and subject to revision.

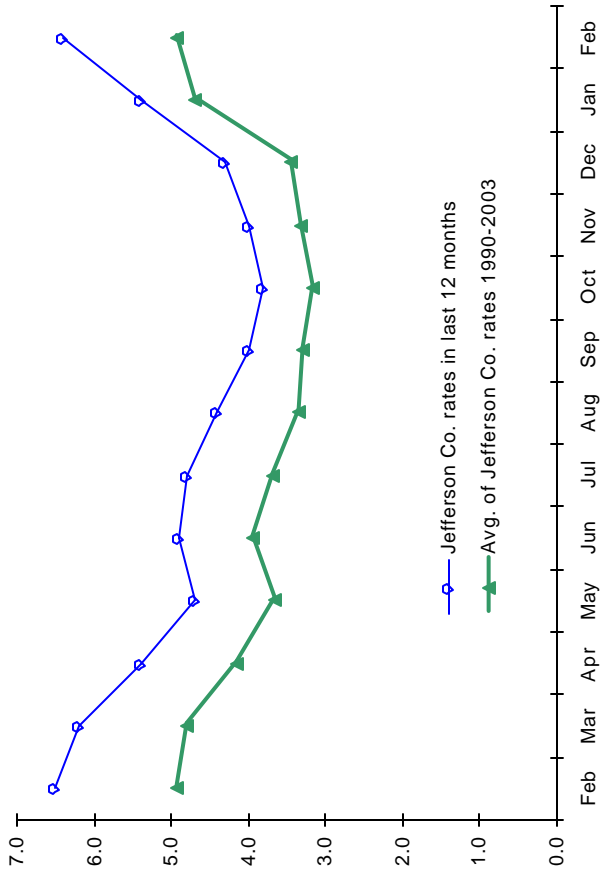
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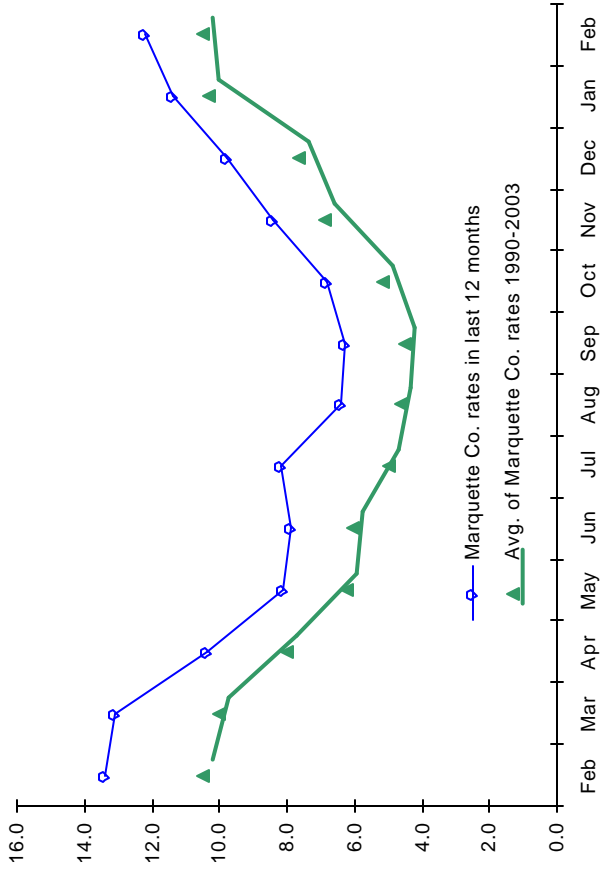
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